

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 15-18 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-14, 19, and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking printed articles, the method comprising the steps of:  
    reading input indicating that a ~~first carrier~~ plurality of carriers is being mounted to take up printed articles;  
    reading in an ID of each of the first carrier carriers;  
    separating the printed articles into a plurality of groups of printed articles;  
    loading each of the groups of printed articles onto one of the carriers; and  
    making a record for each of the groups of printed articles, each of the records associating one of the groups of the printed articles with the first carrier onto which that one group is loaded.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of reading in an ID ~~of the first carrier~~ comprises the sub-step of:  
    reading a bar code from each of the ~~first carrier~~ carriers.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading input ~~in a code indicating that a carrier is being mounted~~ comprises the sub-step of:  
    for each of the carriers, reading a bar code indicating mounting of a carrier.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading input ~~indicating that the first carrier is being mounted~~ comprises the sub-step of:  
    reading input indicating that a plurality of reels ~~spool~~ is being mounted to take up a web including printed articles.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 ~~further comprising the steps of:~~  
    ~~reading input indicating that the spool is being mounted to supply the web to a web fed line~~ wherein the step of reading in an ID comprises the sub-step of reading in an ID of each of the reels.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 5 ~~further comprising the steps of:~~  
~~reading input indicating that a reel is being mounted to take up a sub web from the web~~  
~~fed line; and making a record associating content of the sub web with the reel wherein~~  
the loading step comprises the sub-step of loading each of the groups of printed articles  
onto the reels.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
reading input indicating that the ~~first carrier is~~ carriers are being mounted to  
supply the groups of printed articles, and  
reading in ~~the first carrier ID~~ an ID of each of the carriers.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:  
reading in input indicating that a second carrier plurality of carriers is being  
mounted to ~~received~~ receive some of the groups of printed articles; and  
~~making a record associating the printed articles with the second carrier~~  
loading some of the groups of printed articles onto the second plurality of  
carriers; and  
making a record for each of the groups of printed articles loaded onto the second  
plurality of carries, each of the records associating one of the groups of printed articles  
with the carrier onto which that one group is loaded.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of reading input  
indicating that the ~~first carrier is~~ carriers are being mounted comprises the sub-step of:  
reading a bar code indicating mounting from each of the carriers.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for tracking printed articles ~~as they are generated and transferred from a first carrier to a second carrier in the course being produced~~, the computer readable medium including ~~programing~~ programming instructions for:

reading input indicating that a ~~first carrier~~ plurality of carriers is being mounted to take up printed articles;

reading ~~and in an~~ ID of a ~~first carrier ID~~ each of the carriers; and

separating the printed articles into a plurality of groups of printed articles;

loading each of the groups of printed articles onto one of the carriers; and

making a record for each of the groups of printed articles, each of the records associating one of the groups of the printed articles with the first carrier onto which that one group is loaded.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 10 further including programming instruction for:

reading input indicating that the ~~first carrier is~~ carriers are being mounted to supply the groups of printed articles, and

reading in ~~the first carrier ID~~ an ID of each of the carriers.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 11 further including programming instruction for:

reading in input indicating that a ~~second carrier~~ plurality of carriers is being mounted to ~~received~~ receive some of the groups of printed articles; and

~~making a record associating the printed articles with the second carrier.~~

loading some of the groups of printed articles onto the second plurality of carriers; and

making a record for each of the groups of printed articles loaded onto the second plurality of carriers, each of the records associating one of the groups of printed articles with the carrier onto which that one group is loaded.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for producing custom printed articles comprising:  
a printer;

~~a computer system electrically coupled to the printer, the information processing system including:~~

~~means for receiving information indicating that a spool is being mounted to take up a web of printed articles output by the printer; and~~

~~means for receiving information identifying the spool~~

a reader for reading input indicating that a plurality of carriers is being mounted to take up printed articles and for reading in an ID of each of the carriers;

means for separating the printed articles into a plurality of groups of printed articles;

a loader for loading each of the groups of printed articles onto one of the carriers; and

storage for storing a record for each of the groups of printed articles, each of the records associating one of the groups of printed articles with the carrier onto which that one group is loaded.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13 wherein the ~~means for receiving information indicating that a spool is being mounted includes:~~ reader comprises a bar code reader.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13 ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the means for separating the printed articles comprises a slitter for slitting the a web of printed articles into a plurality of sub webs.

20. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 19 further comprising:  
means for receiving information indicating that a reel is being mounted to take up a sub web of printed articles from the spool.